Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-02 SCA-01 EB-07 H-02 INR-07

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R 242232Z APR 75 FM AMEMBASSY QUITO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5291 INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

CONFIDENTIAL QUITO 2814

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EFIS, EC

SUBJ: US FISHING VESSEL A.K. STROM

- 1. CONGEN GUAYAQUIL REPORTS HAVING BEEN TOLD, IN CONVERSATION WITH ECUADOREAN NAVY LT. PEDRO CABEZAS, CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN SCIENCES, THAT THE A.K. STROM HAD BEEN SIGHTED BY LOCAL FISHERMEN FISHING 25 MILES OFF OF SALINAS. CABEZAS ADDED THAT SOMETIME IN RECENT WEEKS THE STROM HAD BEEN ASKED BY GOE AUTHORITIES TO SEND OUT A SPOTTER PLANE TO HELP SEARCH FOR AN ECUADOREAN SEAMAN WHO HAD DISAPPEARED FROM AN ECUADOREAN SHIP. ACCORDING TO CABEZAS, STROM HAD BEEN UNABLE TO COMPLY.
- 2. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT A.K. STROM, AT 735 NET REGISTERED TONS, DID NOT QUALIFY FOR ECUADOREAN FISHING LICENSE AND WAS EXPELLED FROM ECUADOREAN WATERS AFTER HAVING BEEN SEIZED ON FEBRUARY 1, 1975, AND IT'S CATCH CONFISCATED. SHORTLY BEFORE DEPARTURE, STROM' CAPTAIN (DAVID RICO) TOLD US HE WAS LEAVING ECUADOREAN WATERS AND WOULD PROBABLY HEAD FOR FISHING GROUNDS OFF AFRICAN COAST.
- 3. IN VIEW OF THE POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE A.K. STROM FISHING IN ECUADOREAN WATERS WITH GOE KNOWLEDGE (IF TRUE), EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE WORTH CHECKING WITH SAN DIEGO INDUSTRY SOURCES TO DETERMINE LOCATION OF A.K. STROM. PLEASE REPORT FINDINGS. HEMENWAY CONFIDENTIAL

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